AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-6 and 21. A complete listing of claims, including their current status, is provided below.

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A method for detecting the presence of a target, comprising:

(a) hybridizing a probe with an attached label to said target to produce an initial complex;

(b) adding a metal ion to the initial complex to produce a final complex; and,

(c) applying a potential to the final complex to produce a measurable signal.

8. (Original) A method for detecting the presence of a target as recited in claim 7, wherein said label attached to said hybridizing probe is a transition metal-ligand complex.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said transition metal-ligand complex has a central atom selected from the group consisting of osmium and ruthenium.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the metal added in step (b) is selected from the group consisting of zinc, cobalt and nickel.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said measurable signal is a chemiluminescent signal.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said measurable signal is an electrochemiluminescent signal.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein a plurality of metal ions is added to said initial complex.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein a plurality of different metal ions is added to said initial complex.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said final complex is conductive.

16. (Original) A method for detecting the presence of a target, comprising adding together a probe having an attached label, a target capable of hybridizing to the probe, and metal ions.

17. (Original) A method for detecting the presence of a target as recited in claim 16, wherein said label attached to said probe is a transition metal-ligand complex.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said transition metal-ligand complex is selected from the group consisting of osmium and ruthenium with organic coordinating ligands.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the metal ions are selected from the group consisting of zinc, cobalt and nickel.

20. (Original) A method for detecting the presence of a target, comprising:

(a) hybridizing a probe having an attached label with said target to produce an initial complex, wherein the label produces a signal in response to application of a potential;

(b) adding a metal ion to the initial complex to produce a final electrically conductive complex; and

(c) applying the potential through the final complex to the label, to cause the label to produce the signal.

21. (Cancelled)